

Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2013

The Problem: Homeless Youth Struggle to Succeed in Education

Schools offer structure, normalcy, support, and hope – it is a place where homeless children and youth can obtain the skills that they will need to avoid poverty and homelessness as adults. Yet children and youth experiencing homelessness face great challenges. High mobility, precarious living conditions, and severe poverty combine to present significant educational barriers.

- Many homeless children and youth lack basic supplies and a reasonable environment in which to do homework.
- Homeless children and youth perform below their peers in math and reading and are more likely to be held back.
- Young children who are homeless have higher rates of developmental delays and other problems that set them back as they prepare to enter school, yet they face significant barriers to accessing preschool programs.
- Unaccompanied homeless youth confront these and other challenges associated with homelessness without the support and guidance of a caring adult.

The Solution: The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2013:

This legislation will make a strong law even more effective by reinforcing and expanding its key provisions, including school stability, enrollment, and support for academic achievement. It draws from 26 years of experience and the insights of local and state educators, as well as service providers and advocates. The Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2013 will help children and youth experiencing homelessness thrive in school, despite the constant moving, trauma, and loss associated with their homelessness.

The legislation will promote educational success for homeless youth by:

- Keeping homeless children and youth in their original schools, unless the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth wishes to change schools, or unless an individualized, best interest determination by the school supports a change of schools
- Increasing the authorized funding level to help assist with the costs of transportation to the school of origin
- Making transportation to the school of origin an allowable use of Title I, Part A funds
- Developing a clear and accessible dispute resolution process for parents of homeless youth and children, and unaccompanied youth
- Requiring public preschool programs to identify and prioritize homeless children for enrollment
- Providing professional development, training, resources, and time to school district homeless liaisons so they can carry out the duties required by the Act
- Improving access to summer school, before and after school programs, and other educational opportunities
- Improving the academic progress and high school graduation rate of unaccompanied youth by addressing guardianship barriers, credit accrual problems and access to credit recovery opportunities